GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:777
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006
CENTRES FOR TESTING GOLD
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up centres for testing the purity of gold in every district of the country by 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such centres proposed to be set up alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has accorded its approval to the said scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be accorded; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the reliability of Bureau of Indian Standards in international market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): No, Sir.

(b to e): In order to ensure adequacy of assaying infrastructure particularly in uncovered areas prior to Hallmarking being made mandatory, a scheme for setting up of Gold Hallmarking /Assaying Centres in 35 identified districts in India has been approved by the Planning Commission for implementation during 2005-07 on pilot basis. Under this scheme, one time financial incentive of 15% of the cost of plant and equipment, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15 lakhs will be provided to selected entrepreneurs.

(f): Since India is a major exporter of gold jewellery, necessary actions are being taken for accession to Convention on Control and Marking of Precious Metals Articles (Vienna Convention, 1972) for accreditation of Indian gold jewellery exports for better image and accessibility to various overseas jewellery markets.